



Aruba says goodbye to the Ultimatebet Aruba Poker Classic 2006

Five years ago, Ultimatebet.net Aruba Poker Classic started with fifteen players, but for the last three years now counts on an average of 600 participants battling it out for the big prize money. During the week of the competitions the Radisson Resort has hosted the games, one can find on any day Texas Hold 'em Poker the main topic of discussion morning, noon and night. When poker addicts aren't playing Texas Hold 'em they are talking about it or thinking it, or playing online! That is when they aren't throwing poker stars like Freddy Deebs, last year's winner, or Antonio Esfandiari, a member of the Team Ultimatebet, into the Radisson pool. This is how they ended their eventful week in Aruba, as not only Texas Hold 'Em, but also the new rage in the gaming world, Elimination Blackjack, kept the players very busy for a week..

This year's winners are real success stories, with the top prize money going to relative unknowns. Devon Miller, only twenty-one years old and described as a "poker powerhouse" by poker pundits, took first place in the final game and the big prize money of \$774,960. Veteran player Cliff "JohnnyBax" Josephy was a very happy man with second-place and the second prize of \$446,975.

In Elimination Blackjack, online player Don Whitford of Jacksonville, Florida was thrilled to take one of the two final tables and a grand prize of \$79,000 after winning his trip and entry into the tournament in an online "free-roll." It didn't cost Don a dime to come to Aruba or enter the games, so he had plenty of reason to smile, as did Aaron Tribble of Kansas City, Missouri, who only invested \$109, which won him a free trip to Aruba and, after elimination games, a place at the second final table, where he also won \$79,000.

Saturday night's final farewell party around the Radisson pool was a time to really relax and enjoy, as the week of tense play was behind, and it was one last opportunity to blow off steam before players and guests boarded their planes for all the corners of the globe. Ultimatebet.net brought players from the U.S., Europe and beyond, and they were there to congratulate Devon Miller as Jack McClelland of Ultimatebet placed the coveted gold bracelet on Devon's wrist. It is a well-known fact that the sight of a gold bracelet, which is the badge of a major tournament winner, on the wrist of a player has been known to psych out the others at the table, and in poker, that is the name of the game. Devon displayed his proudly as everyone danced the night away to the golden oldies of the Equatorband and their vocalist Henna, who channeled Janis Joplin to perfection. That is, when they weren't throwing poker stars into the pool.

Aruba may say goodbye to the Ultimatebet Aruba Poker Classic for another year, but The Casino at the Radisson certainly isn't saying goodbye to Texas Hold 'em, where tournaments are held on a nearly nightly basis with various limits and buy-ins, suited for the novice player or poker hustler. When one observes how online gaming sites such as Ultimatebet.net have made stars and big money winners of the everyman with the smarts to play winning poker, it is little wonder that this is the latest craze!

This young man has a very good reason to smile.....

Twenty-one year old Devon Miller of Los Angeles California has every reason to smile, on Saturday he took the final game of the Fifth Annual Ultimatebet Aruba Poker Classic and went home with the grand prize of \$774,960. This is the second big-money tournament this up-and-coming young player has won this year, and it is a major victory that will establish him as a superstar on the Texas Hold 'em firmament. From the very beginning of the competition he showed he was a power to be reckoned with, and came into the last game holding over fifty percent of the chips; never giving up his lead for a moment. Read more about the tournament finals inside.